ESSENTIAL PREPARATION FOR LIFE WORK

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well.
2Tim.2:15 Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

It pleased me very much to hear of your request for a Baccalaureate service this year. It indicates on your part a thotfulness about the higher and deeper things of life that is gratifying to us all.

I Once read of an Indiana judge who was proud of two things his zeal in upholding the law and his faith in the fighting ability of his son. These two hobbies came into violent conflict once, but the problem was happily solved. It happened that the judges farm was on the Ohio boundary, and one day he was sitting on a fence that separated the two states. As he sat there his son came along with a neighbor s boy, the two quarreling together By the time they reached the judge they began a vigorous fistic encounter, and immediately the judge straightened himself to his full dignity and cried, "In behalf of the majesty of the law and in the name of the sovereign state of Indiana, I command you to keep the peace."

But just at that moment the rail on which he was sitting gave way and the judge dropped on the Ohio side of the fence. Recovering himself and leaping to his feet he shouted, Give it to him, Jim, give it to him, Jim, I'm out of jurisdiction."

As I face you, ~~the Graduating Class~~ members of the Graduating Class and of the Faculty of our High School, I feel somewhat out of jurisdiction, knowing that people today, especially the young people, dont like to be preached to, but at the same time it is my duty to talk to you in some kind of a preachy sort of way. But if I try hard to put something over that is worth your thotful consideration and if you try hard to forget that I'm preaching this morning, ~~the situation~~ of my present predicament will be as happily solved as was that of the Indiana judge, I am sure.

Let me introduce my theme and text to you by giving to you the council an old Greek officer gave to his generals on the eve of an important battle-"The secret of victory is getting a good ready" General Foch's statement bears out the same thot- "Battles are won the day before". Our theme may be stated thus-"Essential Preparation for Life Work." And out text is a two-fold one. Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well, and 2 Tim;2:15 Give diligence to present thyself aproved unto God,

a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

This "getting a good ready" and this "day-before preparation" for life work is just what our schools and colleges are giving their students. But our approach to the subject under consideration will not be from the standpoint of schools and colleges, however, but rather from the standpoint of the individual who is seeking such preparation; therefore this theme should be of vital concern to every graduate present.

I. The first essential of an adequate preparation for Life-work is a definite, worthy Purpose in Life.

The giant locomotive that pulls a heavy train across the continent at 60 miles per hour, when in the repair shop with no fire under its boilers is at the mercy of workmen and pigmy engines, utterly helpless to move itself.

If you are not to go wabbling and wavering thru life being pulled here and there by others and by various influences, you must have the motive power of a definite purpose of some kind and you must hold on to it with fingers of steel. No man can make a success of himself without the driving power of a great purpose.

Such a purpose alone can prevent scatter-brained efforts, and insure that degree of concentration which any worthy success demands.

Your leaving high school marks one of the great changes in your life. Some of you are planning to continue your educational pursuits (I wish all of you could) and the rest of you will be filling various kinds of wage-earning or business positions. For most of you it means leaving home and for all of you it means much less dependence upon others and much more dependence upon yourselves. Whether you go to the university or to work as a wage-earner, you will soon discover that there are many forces and influences at work ever trying to draw you away from your main task in hand. Unless you are actuated by some definite purpose you may be easily side-tracked and left stranded, flunked out of college or failed out of your job.

Of course, the various kinds of purposes are legion. And some of you may not yet know just what you should choose for your life-work. Whether you choose to be doctor or lawyer or nurse, engineer, teacher or fininceer, or a business man, farmer or carpenter, you should be actuated by the same purpose to make the most of your

opportunities, to live your personal lives on/XXX according to the best standard, and render your best service in the world of affairs. Thus only can you honor the God who created you in His own emage.

In the words of Sam Walter Foss God is calling to each one of you,

"Give me men to match my mountains,
Give me men to match my plains,
Men with empires in their purpose,
Men with eras in their brain."

II. The second essential for an adequate preparation for Li Life-work which I would have you consider is-A worthy Program, a definite Plan for the carrying out of your purppke.

Heretofore others have done most of the planning for you. Home guidance and school help have enabled you to get along thus far without much personal planning. But from now on you are going to find it decidedly different. From now on you will be forced to make your own plans. Whereas every course of study outlines its own subjects to a great extent and every business has its own set of duties and responsibilities, the method of mastering university work is left largely to the student and the manner of performing the duties and meeting the responsibilities of business is left largely to the one engaged in it.

Those of you who go to the university will soon be lost in large classes, the professors will be distant from you, oftentimes as much so as the sun, moon and stars are distant from the earth; you will have no one to go to for help in your lessons. Most of your class-room difficulties you will have to overcome alone. It will be absolutely necessary to study and work systematically, according to a plan of procedure that will enable you to function mentally to the best advantage. If you would do well and become a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, you will have to direct your mind and dispose of your time according to a system and schedule befitting your life purpose.

III. The third and last essential of an adequate preparation for Life Work which I would have you consider is an Adequate Personal Balance.

Every superstructure has to rest upon a foundation The heavier and more pretentious it is the more carefully laid must the foundation be. Think of what would happen to our tall sky-scrapers if their foundations gave way but a small fraction of an inch! They would become leaning towers of Pisa and would have to be condemned.

Every engine has to be properly balanced. Without the fly-wheel and governor the steam engine would be useless. Gas engines and electric motors likewise are put in proper balance by various devices.

The delicate watch has its balance wheels and crystals. It is adjusted against the expansion or contraction of its metal parts due to heat or cold and also against the friction of its parts. The watch is a marvelous example of the significance of balance.

A radio set with proper balance is absolutely useless, an instrument of distortion and howls. You may have the most costly standard parts in your set, but if they are not balanced ~~correctly~~ electrically your set will not work.

The centrifugal and centripital forces of nature keep the ~~sun~~ planetary systems of the universe in equilibrium. In fact everything in motion has to be made steady and stable. The more complex and delicate the mechanism the more important a consideration its balaning becomes.

Personal Balance as one of the vital elements of success in life cannot be overestimated. Many a genius fails for the lack of it. Many a highly educated person makes a mess of his career because he lacks stability. For the want of self-control and reliability of judgment thousands of budding promises never materialise.

Personal Balance is what we call Character, that element of a person's make-up which gives him stability and soundness of judgment, which makes him reliable and dependable, which gives him such control of self as to be master of his mind and affections and impulses at all time

Lucy Fith Perkins has a child's poem which reads,

"My doll, my doll, my Annabel:
She s really feeling far from well-
Her wig is gone, her eyes are out,
Her legs were left somewhereabout,
Her arms were stolen by the pup
The hens ate all her sawdust up:

5. So all that's really left of her
Is just her clothes and character."

And so it is with us. When our Life Work is finished and the fires of our energies and ambitions have all but gone out, our Characters will endure; and in the lives of those living will be reflected the influence of of our lives and characters.

According to Personal Balance people can be roughly divided into three classes.

EVIL. Those who cheat in examinations, who would steal from mother's purse, who are "dirty" in athletic who tell smutty stories, who gamble, who go back on their pals, who compromise and misuse friends for selfish gains, who speak evil of others and become gealous of others, etc.

NOT EVIL
NOT GOOD Those who do not tell smutty stories but who when they happen to hear one laugh with the others; who do not cheat personally but allow others about them to do so without a protest, who never fight for clean sport or honest examinations or a square deal in business. Those who when the are with a good crowd are fairly good themselves but who when they get in with the other kind become passively like them.

You remeber the old story of the chameleon ~~which when~~ that changed its color to match the color of the backgroud upon which it was placed but when it was put upon a schtch plaid simply "busted" trying to make good. Well, such people who are always on the fence, jumping on one side today and on the other tomotrow usually end up by "busting" their social standing and their usefulness in the world.

GOOD In contrast to the two classes mentioned, there are those who have sufficient strength of character to not only to play the Game of Life squarely and fairly themselves but who endeavor to persuade others to do the same. They fight against corruption in politics and everywhere else, they stand for decency and honor in the home, in school, in social circles, in business. They refuse to go with the wrong crowd or to make friends friends with the wrong kind.

If you belong to the first class mentioned which we called EVIL, I dont care what university you attend

or how with what high honors you graduate, unless you get out of that class you are doomed to failure in life. If you belong to the second class of those who are just Not EVIL or NOT GOOD, you may not be a total failure of the first class, but you will never amount to very much in life.

Only the 99% GOOD, only men of character, who are able to exercise sound sudgment, who can direct their minds and energies and control their desires in order to achieve their one purpose in life and, according to that purpose, render their best service to the world can feel reasonably certain of success. Members of the graduating Class, there is only one class for you-tackle your life-work with that kind and degree of Character which will enable you to MAKE GOOD.

Such Personal Balance will help you over ~~may~~ many dangerous places. Take the question of Amusements, for example. Young people like lots of fun and pleasure. And that is right. We only live once and we ought to have as godd a time as possible. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. On the other hand there is nothing that prevents people from succeeding in life so much as amusements of various kinds. Pleasure spells failure for many people. And why? Simple because they failed to have a proper Personal Balance, they failed to use sound judgment.

Let me give you the direction that a minister onc once gave his young people, for it will enable you to handle your own case to good advantage. The minister said that there were three "ations" to guide you regarding amusements. The first is "Discrimination". First decide whether a given amusement is wrong or right. If it is wrong, leave it alone. Then there is to be considered the proper and improper use of the amusement. A game of cards may be innocent enough, but when indulged in in connection with gambling it becomes an evil influence that is liable to ruin your whole career. In all your dancing and theatre-going and other forms of amusement discriminate, then, between the good and the evil. Cling to the good, reject the evil.

The second "ation" is moderation. Any amusement carried to excess is harmful. Too much movie, or too much base-ball, or too much dancing may prove fatal to your interests. Remember Moderation.

The third "ation" is Subordination. If a man's life is dominated by a high definite purpose, amusements will take their proper place in his daily routine. He will play in order to serve better in his work. You are